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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of life, breathe Your grace in us. During this period of Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan, remind us about the blessing of having people touch our lives. Thank You for the people who live exemplary lives and show us what productive living should be. Thank You for the people who inspire us, who motivate us to strive for noble things. Thank You for the people who comfort us, who help ease life's hurts. Thank You for the people who strengthen us, who give us courage to tackle the difficult. Thank You for the people who enlighten us through the written word.

Thank You for our Senators, who work to keep us free. Give them the wisdom to keep their hearts pure, their minds clean, their words true, and their deeds kind.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in just a few moments, we will resume negotiations on the Defense appropriations bill. Last night, we worked well into the evening and were able to make relative progress on the bill. The Senate voted overwhelmingly last night to invoke cloture. Therefore, today we will be proceeding with amendments that qualify under rule XXII.

I thank Members for their patience last night during our series of stacked votes. I particularly thank those Members—especially Senators STEVENS and INOUE—who have worked so aggressively on the bill and who over the course of the day will continue to try to clear amendments on both sides of the aisle. We will have votes over the course of the day on those amendments.

We can and should push forward on this bill today and tonight and try to finish the bill. If necessary, we will be here tomorrow to complete our work for the week. There are a number of other issues that are currently being discussed, debated, and talked about, including the homeland security conference report as well as pensions legislation, which I have mentioned regularly.

I hope we will be able to proceed with the cooperation of all Senators over the course of the day as we seek final passage of the Defense appropriations bill. The time does expire early in the morning tomorrow. Thus, we should work toward completing that bill this afternoon and this evening.

### HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, later this afternoon, several of my colleagues and I have the honor of hosting Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany in the U.S. Capitol.

The Prime Minister has served for just a little bit over 1 year. His country, as we all know, is a valued friend

and ally of the United States. Hungary's transition to a Western-style parliamentary democracy was the first and smoothest of the countries formally under the dominion of the Soviet bloc.

In May of 1990, Hungary held its first free parliamentary election. In the intervening years, Hungary has made tremendous strides in strengthening its democratic foundation and becoming more integrated in the Euro-Atlantic institutions. It became a full NATO ally in March of 1999. Last spring, it earned full membership to the European Union, the EU.

Today, the United States and Hungary maintain a positive and a productive bilateral relationship. Our two countries work closely together and through international organizations such as the EU and NATO. In particular, Hungary has been a steadfast ally for the United States and NATO missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in the Balkans. It is a member of the coalition that liberated Iraq. It also contributed troops to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and has played an important role in the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army. Recently, Hungary offered to lead one of the provincial reconstruction teams to help stabilize Afghanistan.

Hungary is a brave nation. Hungary is a proud nation. On behalf of the American people, I express my most sincere gratitude and respect for the invaluable contributions it has made to the war effort.

Hungary is also playing another invaluable role in the spread of democracy. As a nation only recently emerged from decades of tyranny, Hungary is sharing its unique lessons with today's emerging democracies. It has established an International Center for Democratic Transition to reach out and nurture the world's newest democracies. The center will act as a resource for countries in transition.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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There, they can gain insights into the obstacles and opportunities before them. I have no doubt that this new center will help democracy take root, to grow, and to flourish, and will help the world's newly emerging democracies succeed.

During our talks this afternoon, I look forward to discussing these and many other issues of mutual interest with the Prime Minister. The United States and Hungary have worked hard to build a close, cooperative relationship. I am confident that through continued exchanges and dialog, we can deepen and solidify our bond as champions and defenders of freedom.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2863.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reed/Hagel amendment No. 1943, to transfer certain amounts from the supplemental authorizations of appropriations for Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terrorism to amounts for Operation and Maintenance, Army, Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps, Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide activities, and Military Personnel in order to provide for increased personnel strengths for the Army and the Marine Corps for fiscal year 2006.

Coburn amendment No. 2005, to curtail waste under the Department of Defense web-based travel system.

Mr. FRIST. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to speak as in morning business. If any other Senator comes and wants to speak about an amendment on the underlying bill, I would be pleased to wrap up my remarks.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Speaking in my capacity as a Senator from Alaska and manager of the bill, I would agree to the unanimous consent that the Senator may speak but would yield the floor in the event someone wishes to call up an amendment or speak on the bill. Is that agreed?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Yes, I would.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized as in morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I begin by thanking the Senator in the chair for his leadership in trying to help us move this De-

fense appropriations bill through the Congress. It is, of course, an extremely important bill, and it is a very difficult bill to manage because it is large and complicated and multidimensional and a great need. I thank the Senator from Alaska and the Senator from Hawaii for helping us to manage through this as we try to wrap up this week.

(Ms. MURKOWSKI assumed the Chair.)

#### HURRICANE KATRINA

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, one of the reasons I come to the floor this morning is to speak about an issue that I brought up on the floor, now many times, and so has the other Senator from Louisiana and Members of our delegation, as well as Members from the Gulf Coast States that have been affected by Katrina, to try to see what we can do to get some aid to our States, directly into the hands of people who can actually put that money to good use, so we do not leave here this weekend without having done something very clearly and very specifically.

Now, this Congress has acted with dispatch over the last 4 weeks to allocate and appropriate money to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that is tasked with the responsibility of managing disasters such as this when they are of such a magnitude it is really impossible for individual cities or individual counties or individual parishes or even regions to handle them.

This storm was just that. It was a category 5 storm, with a surge of tide that had the highest recorded level at 29 feet of water—a tsunami basically of 30 feet, approximately—that slammed into the gulf coast about 32 days ago and devastated the energy coast of this Nation—or a large part of the energy coast.

Assessments are being done by insurance companies, corporations, multinational companies, small companies, law enforcement, cities, parishes, and counties to try to get a handle on the damage, but it is staggering.

This special edition, which I have been reviewing since I picked it up yesterday, is done by National Geographic. It is a special edition on Katrina and Rita. It was contributed to by the Times-Picayune, the Dallas Morning News, the New York Times, and it truly is remarkable work: “Katrina, Why It Became a Man-Made Disaster” and “Where It Could Happen Next.” It takes us through a series of not just the way the hurricane formed and how powerful and devastating it was, but how the levees could have been breached or how the levees might have collapsed, because that assessment is still being made about how many houses have been lost, about how many thousands of square miles were flooded in New Orleans, in Saint Bernard, in Saint Tammany Parish, in Plaquemines Parish, how the entire parish of Cameron, that had 10,000 structures 8 days ago, now has one structure standing; a courthouse that

was built by the New Deal, the only structure standing in Cameron Parish.

It talks about how the combination of these two killer storms, and the neglect on the part of many—cost cutting that obviously did not pay off—how it has now wrecked this economic powerhouse. It says, actually, the economic power has been brought to its knees. The center of that powerhouse would be the State I represent in the Senate, the State of Louisiana, that is home to the Mississippi River, the greatest delta on the continent, the greatest river on the continent.

On that river are the largest ports in America. The eye of the first storm, Katrina, went right over the Port of New Orleans, the South Louisiana Port, and barely missed the other large port, which is the Port of Baton Rouge, which hosts the energy industry, the petrochemical industry, the refining industry, the agriculture industry, the commercial industry, the maritime industry—the bulk of it in the Nation. It was a direct hit to the heart of the energy coast.

Not only is Louisiana feeling this, with 2 million people along the gulf coast displaced—hundreds of thousands of people have lost their entire home, their entire business; the people of New Orleans, in large measure, and Saint Bernard and Plaquemines have lost their entire parish—but everyone in America is feeling this because of the higher price of goods, the higher price of gasoline, and the higher price of natural gas.

There are 9,000 miles of pipeline connecting oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. We have been struggling to get those pipelines back up and running. The trade and commerce of the Port of South Louisiana, combined with the Port of New Orleans, dwarfs the Port of Houston, the Ports of New York and New Jersey, and the Port of Beaumont, TX, which was also hit and has some destruction from Rita—thank goodness, not the same level of destruction, thank goodness that we didn't lose the Port of Beaumont or the Port of Houston.

Our ports, from the Port of Lake Charles, from the western side, to the Port of Iberia, to the Port of Morgan City, to the ports along the Mississippi River, to the Port of Fourchon, which is the only deepwater energy port in the Nation right on the gulf, the damage has been extensive and tremendous. To this day, 30 days after—and we will be for months and perhaps even years—we are struggling to stand up that infrastructure.

The long-term building effort is going to be difficult and complicated. I am sorry to say this because we have been criticized for saying it, but it is going to be expensive. There is no cheap or easy way out of it. How we pay for it, what revenues we assign, whether we raise revenues to do it, use revenues we have, assess new approaches, borrow the money, in some